

The West Watch

Neighborhood Group

THE REPORTER

MARCH 2009

**WEST END YOUTH CENTER
20TH AND GREENLEAF STREETS
MEETING 2ND TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH**

NEXT MEETING: TUESDAY, MARCH 10TH - 7PM

CONTACT US

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Guest Speaker For The March Meeting

Our guest speaker for this meeting will be Siobhan "Sam" Bennett who will discuss with us the Properties of Merit Program.

FEBRUARY'S MEETING MINUTES

22 people were in attendance, and our treasurer reported that our bank balance has stayed consistent at \$409.14. Capt. Stephens mentioned a recurring graffiti problem that is targeting areas that border our groups boundaries. Also, Capt. Stephens mentioned the increase in police patrols that are noticeable along 19th St. — near the State Store and the Hess gas station. Lastly, if there are any police issues that you feel aren't being addressed, contact Captain Stephens at 610-437-7713. Our guest speakers, Detectives Brenner & McAfee from the Lehigh County Auto Theft Task Force spoke about vehicle theft and insurance fraud. Items of note — Hondas and Acuras are the most commonly stolen vehicles; the "Club" is a useful deterrent against car theft; do not leave valuables in cars, especially not in plain sight; and they encouraged us all to not have our drivers licenses, insurance cards, car registrations in our cars. On this point, they said that should someone be pulled over and asked for these identifying items, that person has 24 hrs to provide proof of these items and that it is more important that a thief not have this personal information.



YES!! I am very pleased with the work that the West Watch Neighborhood Group is doing and I would like to make a donation to support their many efforts such as the newsletter, meetings, and community events



SORRY. I am not able to help the West Watch Neighborhood Group with a financial contribution at this time but I would like to help in other ways. Please contact me with how I can help.

You can make your check or money order payable to:

The West Watch Neighborhood Group

& Send it to:

809 N 20th St.

Allentown, PA 18104

Thank you for your support!

BLOCK CAPTAIN PROGRAM UPDATE

Our group is now recruiting Block Captains. If you are interested in keeping your neighborhood safe, this is one little way you can help. Being a Block Captain requires minimal time, but the best part of your volunteer effort would be that you are helping to maintain the secure feeling of your block. Everyone interested should please give their contact information to our secretary at the end of the up-coming meeting.

This month's Top Five List

5 basic issues everyone should call the non-emergency # for (610-437-7741) ...

1. An unusual vehicle, driving slowly, driver & passengers are obviously scoping out our neighborhood
2. Loud music—call it in every time because it masks other crimes. For example, if someone is breaking into a house they may turn up loud music to mask the sound of breaking glass. **Please note that loud music can be reported 24 hrs a day, not just late at night!**
3. Barking dogs
4. Parking complaints
5. Snow not being shoveled in a timely manner, garbage piling up, grass not cut

Upcoming Allentown Events

This year marks the second year that the St. Patrick's Day Parade route travels through our area. Please mark your calendars for the event which is on Sunday, March 22nd.

Immediately preceding the parade will be a 5k run to support another local group, The West End Alliance. For 5k information, visit the website

<http://westendstpats5k.com/6.html>

Numbers To Know

Police-Fire-Ambulance	911
Police –Non-emergency	610-437-7751
Chief Maclean	610-437-7777
Police—Vice Unit	610-437-7726
State Rep. Jennifer Mann	610-821-5577
State Sen. Pat Browne	610-821-8468
City Planning	610-437-7613
Recycling/ Graffiti Removal	610-437-8729
Code Enforcement	610-437-7695
Mayor Pawlowski	610-437-7546
Health Bureau	610-437-7760
Zoning office	610-437-7630

How are we doing?

The West Watch can only be successful with your support. Our goal is to make our neighborhood a safer and nicer place to live and we need your help to do this. Send us an email and let us know if there is anything that you think we should be doing but aren't. Let us know if we are scheduling the right speakers or if there is someone that you think would be good for our group to hear. We really would like your feedback, together we can make a difference.

Help!

There are some areas in our neighborhood that are not receiving our newsletter due to a lack of volunteers. If this has happened to you, you could help us by delivering newsletters in your neighborhood or on a block near where you live. We definitely could use your help. Sign up today or find out more information by calling Pam at 610-437-4570 or email PamP@thewestwatch.org

CHEC-Mate Program

Report all suspicious activity anonymously by becoming a CHEC-mate (Citizens Helping Eliminate Crime) Member. Come to our monthly meeting and ask for a card and/or get a few for your Allentown friends or neighbors. Please don't sit silent and expect others to call the police. Everyone has to take responsibility to report suspicious activity when they see it. We can only begin to clean up Allentown when good people come together and say we will no longer put up with illegal activity.